

CAHUILLA NEWS LETTER

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CAHUILLA SERVICE DISTRICT DENIED BY RIVERSIDE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS.

Cahuilla Community Services District petition was withdrawn by Attorney Thomas T. Anderson, which automatically cancelled the request. County Counsel Ray Sullivan ruled the hearing should continue so the entire transaction would be a matter of record.

Chairman Norman Davis of the Board of Supervisors stated that 52 persons had sent requests that their territory should be excluded from the district.

50 of these requests, charted by the surveyor's office, showed the acreage was all in the half of Cahuilla covered by Coachella Valley Water District. Since this is an existing water district, the entire process was invalid.

The proponents of the proposition were ignorant of the situation. Mrs. Jack Houston, who secured most of the 52 signatures said, "I want water. I am now building a home and plan to live in Cahuilla, but this way, we would be spending our money, with little or no chance for water."

Attorney Sullivan summarized the situation as follows:

Cahuilla total assessed value---
\$88,360

Taxes collected per yr. 883

It would require an assessment of \$1.60 per hundred of assessed value to pay off bonds of \$17,500.* The \$883 taxes collected would be cut in half by Coachella Valley Water District's jurisdiction over half of section 36.

Mrs. Houston: Could a water district now be formed by the half of the section remaining outside the jurisdiction of CVWD?

Sullivan: A petition for another
(See Page 3, Cahuilla Newsletter)

SERPENTS IN EDEN

An editorial by Esther Schaak. It was in April of 1953 that the friends invited us to Sec. 36. We had spent many holidays in Palm Springs, but the desert had been replaced by glittering apartments and stores.

In 36 we rediscovered the desert. It was rugged, but the strength, the peace, the verities were there. We found a small cabin the next wildly windy morning. It was neglected, ugly, rejected, but we could buy it. We painted, scraped, we sawed and we hammered. It was ours.

Roads were the problem. The landscape architect had built his road so it blended in the hillside as did his cottage. But the road builders had forgotten the neighbors. If it saved a few feet, a man didn't hesitate to desecrate his neighbor's front yard. In contrast to the warm peace of the desert, the settler said, "I take what I want and my neighbor be damned."

Then the neighbors asked for a news sheet, and later help on the roads. Thus were born Cactus and Maw.

They removed the roads from the doorsteps.

They brought electricity.

They brought the telephone.

There were meetings where friendliness was the rule, until the "ax-grinders" took over.

This one grabbed all the land in sight, seeking to profit from his government's generosity.

That wanted a short cut to his cottage, and be damned to the neighbor.

(See Page 3, Cahuilla Newsletter)

Billy Sams has taken up writing about the desert animals. His story about a frog received a good mark in school and is now exhibited on the bulletin board. Billy has three tortoises, and this year plans to put the eggs in an incubator. In the past, the eggs have been buried, but the babies were not able through break through shell and dirt successfully. The tortoise is quite responsive to humans, according to Mrs. Sams. He eats everything he is offered, responds to his name and seems to be quite domesticated.

Mr. Bancroft's Water Truck had trouble in section 36. It was pulled out by a bulldozer. Neatest trick of the season is a bull-dozer backing down Cat Canyon pulling the water tank.

Mr. and Mrs. John Francis and family were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Sams.

As per Newsletter's suggestion at the start of the season, a shelf for mail boxes has been erected at the entrance to Cahuilla. Three mail boxes are taking advantage of the free Palm Desert mail delivery. North of Cat Canyon still merits Palm Desert delivery. South of Cat Canyon is in the Palm Spgs. zone.

Carlsbad, N.M.

Was sorry not to see you before leaving the desert. Was in the hospital for a week. My illness was due to low altitude, weeds and dust. Am feeling fine now.
Pola Fillmore.

Ollie and Ann Hauge were guests of Mr. and Mrs. David White and Miss Vera Versell over the week-end. Mrs. Hauge is an old-timer in sec. 36. She was quite shocked to see the road in front of the Muro and Hoffman houses. Seems that there was an attempt to build a road there once before. The rain came and washed it out, as it is over the swiftest part of the river bed. Mrs. Hauge had come out to see the friends, got on that road by mistake, and only the soft sand kept their car from going over the cliff, for the road simply melted into the on-rushing water. Mr. and Mrs. R.C. Miller were at the R.P. Hoffman guest house over the week-end. They visited La Quinta Desert Club for Sunday lunch. Mr. and Mrs. Chester Minier of Monrovia and Mr. Frank Tweedy were guests of the Schillings.

The Schillings Miniers and Mr. Tweedy and Mrs. Alice Muro were at Shadow Mountain Club for Saturday dinner.

Mr. and Mrs. McCrillis were also visitors at Shadow Mountain club.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Perryman and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Worley spent the week in Mexico.

Mr. and Mrs. Worley entertained for Mrs. Mora Brown before she left for Sequoia. Guests included Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Marge Houston, and Mr. and Mrs. Perryman. Mr. and Mrs. Gustafson have returned to Santa Fe. Local people express the sincere hope that Mr. Gustafson will feel much better.

Mr. and Mrs. R.P. Hoffman will be in Yosemite this week for the annual party of the manufacturers Association.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Quinn were guests at Shadow Mountain Club. Mr. and Mrs. Morris Spievak made a short visit to their cabin last week-end.

Mr. and Mrs. John Murray attended the annual luau at the beautiful new Elks Club in Palm Springs. Jack spent all Sunday afternoon helping with the elaborate decorations.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Wurst and Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Steen were at their cabins over the week-end. They are working on a plan to move the road "on the line".

Col. Jack London says that the Chia has received "hundreds of dollars for this purpose. You will have black-top, whether you want it or not," he told Dr. Wm. Brenner. Mr. and Mrs. David White, Mr. and Mrs. W. Donald Sams, Mr. John Francis and Miss Vera Versell when they objected to a road being cut parallel to the existing road.

Mrs. Ted Hanft, her son Ronald also removed rock barriers that the neighbors had set up in order to bar traffic on the road.

Neighbors state: 1. Permission was not given to cut through the road.

2. They have provided a 30' roadway on the eastern boundary of section 36. This is the County Line. They feel that since there is access to all parcels of land, they should not be forced to sacrifice the privacy of their homes.

3. The road is being cut by a self-constituted group, not authorized by the people. Therefore, they have no right to cut up the land of other people for their own convenience.